

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly replace claims 1 – 10 with the following:

A²
1. A method for processing a blood concentrate product for separating a medicinally valuable blood component comprising: connecting at least one product bag containing a blood concentrate product to be processed with a tube system having a plurality of tubes connected to a multi-way connector and connecting also a solution bag containing a diluting solution via a solution tube to the tube system in communication with the multi-way connector, suspending the at least one product bag containing the blood concentrate product to be processed in a cassette, processing the blood concentrate product in the at least one product bag by oscillating the cassette forwards and backwards in an incomplete pendulum swing, adding the diluting solution from the solution bag through the tube system in an adapted portion to each of the at least one product bags, keeping the cassette in motion until all blood concentrate products are dissolved in the added diluting solution, and transferring the contents of all of the at least one product bags in the cassette to a ring bag for a subsequent centrifugation processing step.

2. A method in accordance with Claim 1 whereby the amount of diluting solution added to the at least one product bag may be controlled by a clamp valve through which the solution tube is adapted to be passed and which clamp valve can also be utilised when processing is finalised to weld the solution tube.

3. A method in accordance with Claim 1 whereby the pendulum movement of the cassette is held within approximately a quarter revolution in either the forward or backward direction.

4. A method in accordance with Claim 1 whereby the step of transferring to the ring bag the contents of all of the at least one product bags containing a blood concentrate product occurs after the steps of adding and processing with the diluting solution.

5. A method in accordance with Claim 1 in which the step of adding the diluting solution and the step of transferring the dissolved concentrate products takes place in several steps with mixing as the middle step.

6. A device for processing a blood concentrate product comprising a centrifuge machine to which is connected a cassette in which a plurality of product bags containing blood concentrate products to be processed may be suspended and whereby the cassette can be put in motion in a forward and backward pendulum movement in an incomplete revolution about the axis.

7. A device in accordance with Claim 6 in which the centrifuge machine further has attached thereto an instrument for holding a bag containing a diluting solution.

A² 8. A device in accordance with Claim 6 whereby the pendulum movement of the cassette is maintained within the interval of approximately a quarter revolution forward and backward.

9. A bag set for processing blood concentrate products comprising a ring bag, a processed component bag connected to the ring bag, one or more connecting tubes that are adapted to be individually connected to one or more discrete sources of blood concentrate products, said one or more connecting tubes also being connected to a multi-way connector and a diluting solution tube via the multi-way connector, the diluting solution tube being adapted to be connected to a discrete source of diluting solution, whereby the one or more connecting tubes and the diluting solution tube and the ring bag are connected to the multi-way connector where they can be connected with each other in fluid communication, while the processed component bag is separately connected to the ring bag.

10. A device for processing a blood concentrate product in accordance with Claim 6 further having an outer lid which has a motor disposed therein which operates in an incomplete revolution in one direction immediately followed by a corresponding incomplete return revolution in the other direction, said motor being operably connected to the cassette such that when the outer lid of the centrifuge is in an open position, a plurality of product bags can be suspended in the cassette, so that when the motor is activated the product bags are exposed to a mechanical mixing of the blood concentrate products disposed therein.

Attached hereto is a version of these claims 1 – 10 showing the marked-up changes.

Kindly also add the following claims 11-20:

11. A device for processing a blood concentrate product in accordance with Claim 10, which further comprises a clamp valve through which a diluting solution tube may be passed whereby the diluting solution tube is connected between a diluting solution bag and the plurality of blood product bags, and whereby an amount of diluting solution may be added to the plurality of product bags, this amount of diluting solution being controlled by the clamp valve.

12. A device for processing a blood concentrate product in accordance with Claim 11, whereby the clamp valve can also be utilised when processing is finalised to weld the diluting solution tube.

13. A device for processing a blood concentrate product in accordance with Claim 11, which further comprises a support which has a controllable clamp and a welding station which can be actuated to block or weld a diluting solution tube adapted to be disposed therein.

14. A device for processing a blood concentrate product in accordance with Claim 11, which further comprises a second clamp valve to control the flow of processed blood concentrate product from the plurality of product bags to a ring bag via a tube connecting the product bags to the ring bag.

15. A method in accordance with Claim 1, in which the steps of oscillating the cassette and adding diluting solution occur at least partially at the same time.

16. A method in accordance with Claim 1, whereby the connecting step comprises connecting a plurality of blood product bags each containing a blood concentrate product to be processed; and whereby said step of adding a diluting solution includes adding diluting solution to each of the plurality of product bags.

17. A method in accordance with Claim 16 whereby said step of adding a diluting solution includes flowing the diluting solution to each of the plurality of product bags through the multi-way connector.